

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 16, 2003

LB 249

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Members of the Legislature, you know I don't know why we're spending so much time on extracurricular activities. In the district that I represent, we have four or five good schools, very good schools, and we do have students transferring in and out of those schools. But the reason they're doing it is because of academics. One school may have a very strong program that they're interested in, or all of their programs, all of their academic programs are better. That's why they're moving. It isn't because of athletics. Athletics are something that parents and grandparents like to talk about that they did fifty years ago. By golly, how this school beat the other school, and, by George, my son is going to go there and he is going to be a big star. Throw that out. What we're...why should we be training young people for, like Senator Chambers said, for the NCAA. It's ridiculous. If a student thinks that he can get a...or she can get a better education at a neighboring school, then they should be able to opt into that school. We've got that in place now. It all comes down to athletics, and usually that's fired by grandparents and parents, who were big jocks at a certain school. That's what's happening. Let's forget about that. If a young man or woman thinks he can get a better education in another school, which we have in place now, they can petition to transfer into that school district. What's wrong with that? There is nothing wrong with that. If they think, and their parents think that that child can receive a better education in another school. So it...and I remember last year when we talked about that, that was the same scenario, same darn thing. It was...it's just that parents seem to think that their child is going to be another Mickey Mantle or whoever; 99 percent of the time that doesn't happen. It's the parents' and the grandparents' expectations out of these poor kids and they push them, and then they will get into a school who really does push football or basketball, and they usually have a high-powered coach who is going to work the tar out of those kids to make them a better athlete, bust their legs. I think we're barking up a tree here. Education should be the main thing that we're concerned about, and we have something in place that will take care of that if a student wants to transfer into another school, if he meets, or she, or their parents meet the